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IDEA 0723
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3 APR 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Chief DPD
SUBJECT: Additional Project U-2 Aircraft

1. This memorandum contains recommendations for the approval of the Acting Chief, DPD. Such recommendations are contained in paragraph 5.

2. As you know the IDEALIST "Concept of Operations" is based on a minimum of seven operational aircraft in the project inventory. With the recent loss of 344 our total assigned dropped to six aircraft, of which only five could be considered operational, and an average of less than four available for meeting all operational, training, and special requirements, i. e., Red Dot film, camera, and ☐ testing, as well as checkouts for Project and SAC personnel.

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3. It now appears certain that 355, on loan to LAC for INS (OXCART) support, will not be available for operational use before October at the earliest due to delays in that program. 352 is earmarked the Pole and Racetrack phases of OXCART testing, plus IRAN, which will keep it tied up probably through August.

4. IDEALIST operational requirements continue to be heavy with the prospects, from all indications, of increasing. Special and routine training have suffered in recent months and must be substantially increased if we expect to develop and maintain a high level of capability.

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5. It is recommended that:

a. The first SAC aircraft scheduled through LAC for modifications should be transferred to the Agency. This aircraft should be configured as a replacement for 344.

b. An additional U-2A should be obtained to relieve the requirements load in support of OXCART developments and testing. This will allow 352 and 355 to proceed through our modification program and be returned to our operational aircraft inventory without further delays. In addition, the extra aircraft may be employed for more camera and film testing which Eastman-Kodak have asked for.

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[Redacted Signature Box]

Chief, Special Projects Branch, DPD

The recommendations contained
in paragraph 5. are approved:

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[Redacted Signature Box]

STANLEY W. BEERLI
Colonel USAF
Acting Chief, DPD-DD/R

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